

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
NEW ENGLAND ZOÖLOGICAL CLUB

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DESCRIPTIONS OF TEN NEW BIRDS FROM THE  
SANTA MARTA REGION OF COLOMBIA.

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DURING the two years Mr. W. W. Brown, Jr., was collecting for my brother, E. A. Bangs, and myself in the Santa Marta region of Colombia, I published several papers on the birds from time to time, as they were received, describing a number of new forms. Many species, however, were not satisfactorily identified, owing to lack of material necessary for comparison. Some of these have since been described, but there remain the following—among them, some of the best-marked forms of the region—that appear to need special names.

At the time Mr. Brown was in the Santa Marta region, Mr. Herbert H. Smith also was collecting there, in the interest of the American Museum of Natural History. Dr. J. A. Allen has published a long and very instructive paper<sup>1</sup> on the results of Mr. Smith's work for the first year and a half, giving in it lists of all birds that thus far have been recorded from the region. He described nine new species, only one of which, *Myiobius assimilis*, was represented in Mr. Brown's collection, the Brown and the

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<sup>1</sup> List of Birds collected in the District of Santa Marta, Colombia, by Herbert H. Smith, J. A. Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, pp. 117-183, Aug. 25, 1900.

Smith collections having been made, as pointed out by Dr. Allen, in rather different regions, Mr. Brown working for the most part high up in the mountains, and Mr. Smith mostly at low altitudes.

Under each species described here I give a reference to Dr. Allen's Santa Marta paper, where all records for the region can be found.

### **Nyctidromus albicollis gilvus** subsp. nov.

*Nyctidromus albicollis* (Gmel.), Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 137.

*Type*, from Santa Marta, Colombia, ♂ adult, no. 5201, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Jan. 5, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

The Santa Marta Parauque is one of the palest of the races of this wide-spread, variable bird, being exceeded in general pallor of coloration only by *N. albicollis merrilli* Senn. of Texas. It is, however, much smaller than that bird, and the male has the usual amount of white on the outer tail feathers. From the small, dark rufous true *N. albicollis* of Cayenne, on the one hand, and from the dark, dusky, heavily striped and banded Central American race, on the other, the Santa Marta bird, although occupying an intermediate position, is very different.

The general color of the upper parts is pale grayish (as in *N. a. merrilli*) and the back is, comparatively speaking, but little mottled with darker brown, the pale markings of the feathers are deeper yellow (about pale ochraceous in the new form, buff in *N. a. merrilli*); the tail and wings are darker than in *N. a. merrilli*, but not as dark as in Central American examples; the under parts are pale yellowish brown (pale ochraceous buff), darker and grayer on breast; the belly, sides and under tail coverts are nearly clear ochraceous buff, the dusky cross markings, so conspicuous in Central American specimens, being very narrow, much broken, and very pale in color—the under parts being less decidedly barred even than in *N. a. merrilli*.

*Measurements*.—Adult male, type: wing, 150.5; tail, 149.; tarsus, 24.; exposed culmen, 10.5 mm.

Adult male, topotype, no. 5200: wing, 151.; tail, 152.; tarsus, 24.5; exposed culmen, 10. mm.

**Chloronerpes yucatanensis alleni**<sup>1</sup> subsp. nov.

*Chloronerpes yucatanensis uropygialis* (Cab.), Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 136.

*Type*, from San Sebastian, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 6600 feet altitude, ♂ adult, no. 6943, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected July 20, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

A fine series of *C. y. uropygialis*, obtained by Mr. Brown in Chiriqui, proves the Santa Marta bird, formerly called by this name by both Dr. Allen and myself, to be very different. The new bird has the back bright reddish olive, thus agreeing with *C. y. uropygialis* of Central America, and differing from true *C. yucatanensis* of Mexico, in which the back is green. It differs from *C. y. uropygialis* in averaging a little larger; in having the whole under parts much more evenly barred, the darker bars much more dusky, less olivaceous; in the ground color of belly being much paler — olive yellow (olivaceous wax-yellow in *uropygialis*); in lacking the strong reddish olive of jugulum and breast of *uropygialis* — in the new bird these parts are scarcely darker than lower breast and belly; in having the under tail covert, sharply banded with dusky; in having the ground color and quills of the two outer tail feathers more golden, less olivaceous; and in having these feathers barred with dusky on outer webs (instead of plain) and much more broadly edged with dusky on inner webs.

*Measurements*.—Adult male, type: wing, 123.; tail, 83.; tarsus, 23.; exposed culmen, 26. mm. Adult female from La Concepcion, 3000 feet altitude, no. 6062: wing, 117.5; tail, 82.5; tarsus, 22.; exposed culmen, 23.5 mm.

**Xenicopsis anxius**<sup>2</sup> sp. nov.

*Anabazanops striaticollis* (Scl.), Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 158.

*Type*, from Chirua, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 7000 feet altitude, ♂ adult, no. 6154, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Feb. 17, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

Soon after I recorded this bird from the Santa Marta Mountains, I found I was wrong in calling it *striaticollis*, and I have since been awaiting an opportunity to describe it. In order to be sure of my ground — as Dr. Allen had in the mean time recorded his series as *Anabazanops striaticollis* — I again, last autumn, in company with

<sup>1</sup> Named for Dr. J. A. Allen, in recognition of his elaborate paper on the birds of this region.

<sup>2</sup> *Anxius* — uneasy.

Mr. Ridgway, compared very carefully the Santa Marta series with numerous Bogota examples of *X. striaticollis* in the National Museum. As a result, the Santa Marta bird appeared to us to show even more difference than I remembered.

The new species differs from *X. striaticollis* of the Bogota region of Colombia and of Ecuador, in being much yellower, less fulvous, below — the throat and superciliary streak maize yellow; in lacking the stripes on top of head, the feathers being edged with dusky, giving a scaly instead of striped appearance; in having the pileum decidedly more olivaceous.

*Measurements.* — Adult male, type: wing, 85.5; tail, 69.5; tarsus, 18.5; exposed culmen, 17. mm. Adult female, topotype, no. 6155: wing, 78.5; tail, 67.; tarsus, 17.; exposed culmen, 16. mm.

### **Premnoplex coloratus**<sup>1</sup> sp. nov.

*Margarornis brunnescens* Scl., Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 157.

*Type*, from San Miguel, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 7500 feet altitude, ♀ adult, no. 6149, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Jan. 29, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

On comparing the two specimens of the Santa Marta bird with a large series of *P. brunnescens* from Chiriqui, I find it to differ very much in color. It is true I have had no Bogota examples for comparison, but Sclater's original plate and description agree very well with the Chiriqui examples, and if the Bogota and Chiriqui forms are different, they are certainly much more like each other, than is either like the Santa Marta form.

The new species differs from *P. brunnescens* in having the ground color of under parts much darker, richer brown — less olivaceous; in the throat being ferruginous, instead of pale ochraceous; the tear-shaped shaft spots on under parts rather small, much darker, more ferruginous in color, and more sharply contrasted with ground color, the dusky borders of the spots blacker and more conspicuous; under tail coverts with deeper-colored — ferruginous — shaft stripes, which are much more conspicuous and better defined than in *P. brunnescens*; back and rump richer, redder brown, less olivaceous brown.

<sup>1</sup> *Coloratus* — embrowned.

*Measurements*: Adult female, type: wing, 57.5; tail, 66.; tarsus, 19.5; exposed culmen, 14.5 mm. Adult female, from Chirua, 7000 feet altitude, no. 6150: wing, 58.; tarsus, 19.5; exposed culmen, 15.5 mm.

### ***Mionectes olivaceus galbinus*<sup>1</sup> subsp. nov.**

*Mionectes olivaceus* Lawr., Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 149.

*Type*, from La Concepcion, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 3000 feet altitude, ♂ adult, no. 6768, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected March 17, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

As soon as I examined the series of beautifully prepared skins of true *M. olivaceus* Lawr., collected by Mr. Brown in Chiriqui, I saw that the Santa Marta bird is quite different, though probably a subspecies of *olivaceus* rather than a distinct species.

The Santa Marta form is similar to true *M. olivaceus* of Costa Rica and Chiriqui in size and proportions, but differs much in color, being paler throughout, having the yellowish of under parts brighter, clearer yellow; being less marked with olivaceous on throat and breast, and having these markings more yellowish, less dusky olive; and in having the upper parts much paler and greener—in the new form yellowish oil green, in true *M. olivaceus* dull olive green.

*Measurements*.—Adult male, type: wing, 68.; tail, 53.5; tarsus, 16.5; exposed culmen, 12.5 mm. Adult female, topotype, no. 6758: wing, 61.; tail, 49.; tarsus, 15.; exposed culmen, 12. mm.

### ***Myiopagis placens pallens* subsp. nov.**

*Myiopagis placens* (d'Orb. and Lafr.), Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 148.

*Type*, from Santa Marta, Colombia, ♀<sup>2</sup> adult, no. 5226, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Jan. 9, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

Similar to *M. placens accola* Bangs, of Panama, Chiriqui and Costa Rica, with which it agrees in having the greater coverts conspicuously edged with

<sup>1</sup> *Galbinus*—yellowish green.

<sup>2</sup> See foot-note on page 86.

paler, but a much paler and yellower bird throughout, the throat and breast scarcely tinged at all with ashy, the sides of head much yellower, less ashy, the sides of crown, bordering the yellow, semi-concealed crest, much paler—in *M. p. accola* grayish olive, in the new form grayish oil green; hind neck, back and rump much paler—in *M. p. accola* dull olive green, in the new form pale oil green with a slight grayish cast.

*Measurements.*—Adult female,<sup>1</sup> type: wing, 70.; tail, 66.; tarsus, 18.; exposed culmen, 11.5 mm. Adult male, topotype, no. 5224: wing, 69.; tail, 62.; tarsus, 18.; exposed culmen, 12. mm. Adult female, topotype, no. 6707: wing, 63.; tail, 57.5; tarsus, 17.; exposed culmen, 10.5 mm.

### ***Onychorhynchus mexicanus fraterculus* subsp. nov.**

*Muscivora mexicana* Scl., Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 145.

*Type*, from Santa Marta, Colombia, ♂ adult, no. 5250, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Jan. 4, 1898, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

Salvin and Godman, in their paper on Simons's Santa Marta collection, gave the presence of this bird in the region as one reason for thinking there was a certain Mexican element in the ornithology of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta. A critical comparison of a large amount of material, however, shows that the Santa Marta plumed tyrant bird cannot properly be referred to true *O. mexicanus*. It (the new form) is like true *O. mexicanus* in color and color pattern, but is very much smaller, with proportionally larger bill (actually, about the same width and but little shorter). The Santa Marta bird is evidently but a small southern race of *O. mexicanus*, as there is a gradation through Panama and Chiriqui. Mexican examples are always very large. Besides the following list of measurements, I measured and compared a large series of specimens in Washington, that in every way bore out those given below.

<sup>1</sup> As in most tyrant birds, the females of *Myiopagis* are smaller than the males. The specimen I select for the type of this new form is, I think, wrongly sexed, and is probably an adult male.

*Onychorhynchus mexicanus mexicanus* (Scl.).

No.	Sex and age	Locality	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen <sup>1</sup>	Breadth of bill at middle of nostril
2434	♂ ad.	Buena Vista, V. C., Mex.	89.0	75.5	17.0	28.6	9.0
2433	♀ ad.	" " " " "	81.0	71.5	16.5	27.0	8.6
8546	♂ ad.	Bogaba, Chiriqui	88.0	73.0	17.0	28.2	9.0
8548	♂ ad.	" "	88.0	73.0	17.0	27.0	8.8
8547	♀ ad.	" "	79.0	66.0	16.5	24.4	8.0
7225	♀ ad.	Loma del Leon, Panama	79.5	65.5	17.0	24.4	8.4

*Onychorhynchus mexicanus fraterculus* Bangs.

No.	Sex and age	Locality	Wing	Tail	Tarsus	Culmen	Breadth of bill at middle of nostril
5250	♂ ad.	Santa Marta Colombia	84.5	67.	16.5	26.0	9.0
5249	♂ ad.	" " "	83.0	66.	16.5	27.0	9.2
5248	♀ ad.	" " "	76.0	62.	16.0	24.4	8.2

*Microcerculus corrasus*<sup>2</sup> sp. nov.

*Microcerculus marginatus* (Scl.), Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 180.—(One specimen from Onaca provisionally referred to this species by Allen.)

*Type*, from Chirua, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 7000 feet altitude, ♀ adult, no. 6070, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected March 13, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

When I recorded, as *M. marginatus*, the only specimen taken by Mr. Brown, it was done because I did not like to give the bird a name then without having seen a skin of true *M. marginatus*, not that I thought the Santa Marta scrub wren was really that species. Since then I have examined all the material I could and have studied plates and descriptions with great care, and I hesitate no longer in naming the Santa Marta form.

<sup>1</sup> The culmen is measured from the base of the mandible, where it joins the skull, to the tip, as the 'exposed culmen' varies too much.

<sup>2</sup> *Corrasus* — procured with difficulty.

The new species differs from *M. marginatus* in having the flanks and sides conspicuously banded with dusky, and in the whole back and rump being concolor; from *M. squamulatus* by the duller brown color of upper parts, by the whole throat being indistinctly barred with grayish, and by paler colors below; from *M. pectoralis* Robinson and Richmond, of La Guayra, Venezuela, by duller color above and paler colors below. It is also smaller than either of the last two.

The type may be described as follows. Head, back and rump a shade between Prout's brown and raw umber, the head with darker centres to the feathers, giving a slightly scaly appearance; upper tail coverts similar, but with dusky cross bands; wings and tail dark, dusky brown, the secondaries and tertials edged with the color of back and indistinctly crossed by dusky bands; small pale spots at ends of greater and middle coverts; sides of head grayish brown; throat grayish white, with small, dusky grayish speckles; breast and middle of belly grayish white, thickly and irregularly barred and marked with grayish brown; sides, flanks, lower belly and under tail coverts, dull raw umber (the color is, perhaps, exactly speaking, raw umber slightly shaded with Prout's brown), thickly banded with dusky brown.

*Measurements*.—Wing, 55.; tail, 19.5; tarsus, 22.; exposed culmen, 17.5 mm.

### ***Chlorophonia frontalis psittacina*<sup>1</sup> subsp. nov.**

*Chlorophonia frontalis* Scl., Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 170.

*Type*, from La Concepcion, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 3000 feet altitude, ♂ adult, no. 6042, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Feb. 18, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

The descriptions and the fine plate in 'Exotic Ornithology' of *C. frontalis* of Venezuela show several striking points of difference between the bird of that region and that of the Santa Marta Mountains. Furthermore, from Sclater's significant remark in the 'Catalogue of the Birds in the British Museum,' Vol. XI, p. 55,— "Examples from the Sierra Nevada of Santa Marta (Simons) seem to be similar to the Venezuelan bird,"—made on a study of females alone from this region, I infer that that distinguished

<sup>1</sup> *Psittacinus* — of a parrot; parrot-colored.

ornithologist felt so too. There is in the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy a fine pair of true *C. frontalis* from Venezuela, nos. 34,439 and 34,440, that were received in exchange from the British Museum. A comparison of these with the Santa Marta series shows plainly that the birds of the two regions belong at least to different subspecies.

The Santa Marta species is similar in general to *C. frontalis*, but the head is paler golden green, in more marked contrast to the dark grass green of back, and the blue band separating the colors of head and back is *very narrow* (in the type, which has the neck stretched, and therefore this band spread to its utmost, only 5 mm. wide) and of a color paler and greener blue—less turquoise blue—than the rump. In true *C. frontalis* the head and back are more nearly alike, and the collar on hind neck is very wide, sharply defined, and of a bright, clear, turquoise blue like the color of the rump.

Furthermore, in the new form the yellow frontal band is broader and much deeper in color—being darker than the belly, whereas in true *C. frontalis* it is paler yellow than belly; in true *C. frontalis* the yellow front, in both sexes, is separated from the bill by a narrow band of green, in the new form the yellow front, in both sexes and at all ages, extends directly to the base of the bill; the female of the new form has the lower part of the rump and the upper tail coverts blue—not so intense as in the adult male, but very different from the plain green of these parts in the adult female of true *C. frontalis*.

Young males of the new form are similar to the adult male, except that the under parts—breast, belly and sides,—are deep olive yellow, instead of clear, bright, lemon yellow, and that the blue of the rump is not so clear and intense. Adult females are similar to young males, but still duller, more olivaceous below, and with the rump mostly green, dull turquoise only on lower part and on some of the upper tail coverts.

*Measurements*.—Adult male, type: wing, 61.5; tail, 34.5; tarsus, 15.; exposed culmen, 8.5 mm. Adult female, from San Sebastian, 6600 feet altitude, (in worn plumage, June 28, 1899), no. 6989: wing, 61.; tail, 32.; tarsus, 16.; exposed culmen, 9. mm.

### *Catamenia alpica* sp. nov.

*Catamenia*, sp., Allen, Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist., Vol. XIII, p. 164.

*Type*, from Paramo de Chiruqua, Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, Colombia, 15,000 feet altitude, ♀ adult, no. 6248, coll. of E. A. and O. Bangs, collected Feb. 27, 1899, by W. W. Brown, Jr.

On the morning of Feb. 27, 1899, while Mr. Brown was out shooting on the Pass of Chiruqua, at the great height of 15,000 ft., a flock of small birds flew past him. He fired into it and killed one individual, an adult female. This curious little bird bears a striking superficial resemblance to the pine siskin (*Spinus pinus*) in its full autumnal plumage. Its feathers are exceedingly long, and the whole plumage has the soft, dense look of a bird adapted to extreme cold. I was wholly unable to identify it at the time, but, because it was a female, refrained from naming it. It cannot, however, be referred to any known species. I have examined many specimens, including Lafresnaye's types, of *Catamenia analoides*, from all of which the Santa Marta bird differs enormously; I am not even sure that it is a true *Catamenia*.

The Santa Marta Mountain bird, differs from the female of *C. analoides* in being rather larger, with much weaker bill—shorter and narrower, with the culmen straight and less bulging above nostril. The plumage is much more striped both above and below—especially so on top of head and on breast. There is no gray on back or rump. The plumage is very much longer, denser and looser.

The type may be described as follows: Head and back soft wood brown, shaded with russet on interscapulum, heavily streaked with dark blackish brown, the streaks on top of head and interscapulum very broad and conspicuous, on cervix narrower and less intense in color; rump and upper tail coverts broccoli brown, faintly streaked with darker; wings dusky, all the feathers, except primaries, broadly edged with russet; primaries narrowly edged with isabella color; no white spot at base of primaries, the inner webs very narrowly bordered with grayish; sides of head and whole under parts isabella color, darkest on throat, breast, sides and under tail coverts (approaching on these parts to wood brown), and palest on middle of belly, heavily streaked throughout with broad stripes of dusky brown, except a small area in middle of belly, which is plain, pale isabella color; tail dusky, the outer rectrices narrowly tipped with white on inner webs, all the rectrices with white central spots on inner webs, except the middle two pairs which are plain; outer edges of rectrices narrowly fringed with isabella color; bill (in dried skin) pale horn color, yellowish at base of lower mandible; foot and tarsus blackish.

*Measurements.*—Adult female, type: wing, 66.; tail 52.; tarsus, 18.; exposed culmen, 8. mm.